562 gatherings. On those occasions the mothers of
593
[168] large families received rewards.

593 Family reunions tended to keep alive the feel-
[527] ing of belonging between relatives. The most important family gatherings were weddings, baptisms, funerals, birthday parties, and visits during the chief holidays such as Christmas and Easter. At these gatherings several generations met and shared their joys and sorrows. In the everyday life each independent family lived its own life, but in cases of emergency, all the relatives usually helped as much as possible.

593 During the Communist regime the authori-
858 ties have often tried to force a wedge into family unity. They try to use children as spies and urge them to tell what the parents talk about at home, who is visiting in their home, and such things. Thus the parents have to distrust their

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

593 858 own children who in their childishness may betray them, or who may become real Communists.

592 Little time is left for the old type of family life. The school-age children are busy with extra-curricular activities and the parents have compulsory duties after their day's work; indoctrination meetings, some "voluntary" duties, etc.

Nevertheless, the family is still the basic social unit in the Soviet state although it bears traits of disorganization. Deportations have made many broken homes and with the collectivization of agriculture the patriarchal Estonian farm family has become a thing of the past.

SOURCES

113 Rajamaa, Herman. The Moulding of the Soviet Citizens. London, 1948.